GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4349
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2005
PLAN FOR RAILWAYS
Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any long term plan for Railways;

(b) if so, the main emphasis laid in the long term plan; and

(c) the details about its financial implication?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) to (c): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4349 BY SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 22.12.2005 REGARDING PLAN FOR RAILWAYS

(a): Yes, Sir.

(i) Railways has formulated an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan (IRMP) − 2005-2010 in November, 2004.

(ii) A Corporate Safety Plan 2003-2013 has also been prepared.

(b): (i) Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan: This Plan identifies activities with definite time frame for implementation. The Plan is directed towards modernisation in freight business segment, passenger business segment and in other relevant spheres of Railway working. The identified activities seek modernisation not as an end but as a means to make Railways an even more responsive and responsible organization. Activities identified are oriented towards attaining enhanced efficiency, increased customer satisfaction or reduced costs. The Plan areas include:

Passenger Business Segment includes increased induction of modern coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, Improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

Freight Business Segment includes introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Containers and Roll-on-Roll-Off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminum wagons, Extension of Freight Operations Management System to cover Terminal, Rake and Crew Management System, Completion of works identified under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) along with some other Throughput Enhancement works.

Other Modernisation Initiatives includes Track Modernisation and maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Signalling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management System.

The Modernisation Plan identifies targets for completion of each activity along with funding requirements. A large number of these works are already sanctioned as a part of Railways' successive annual plans, and would be financed through normal funding channels. The balance funds required would have to be mobilized through measures such as increased internal generation, extra budgetary resources and through enhanced budgetary support as necessary.

It is expected that the Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan, the first such exercise, will ensure that the Railways not only sustain the current level of performance but are also able to cater to the growing demands of the passenger and freight traffic, provide modern and efficient services to millions of its customers and become a World Class Railway system in the foreseeable future.

(ii) Corporate Safety Plan: The Corporate Safety Plan states the objectives, strategies and targets for which the Indian Railways would be striving in the next decade. The document encompasses the priorities of the safety related works and indicates a broad timeframe to complete them along with assessed approximate requirement of financial investments.

While the endeavour is to minimize fatalities in accidents, the plan objectives can be treated as an intermediate stage in our efforts to realize a vision of accident-free and casualty-free Indian Railways system. Though achieving a situation of accident-free system is a herculean task, a realistic and analytical approach has been adopted while planning all necessary steps projecting the required investments in this labour intensive, resource- strapped mammoth organization.

The Corporate Safety Plan of the Indian Railways (2003- 2013) also envisages a safety action plan directed towards continuous reduction in risk level to its customers, implementation of suggested system reforms, imbibing better safety culture, enhancement of asset reliability etc. This covers continuous rehabilitation and modernization of assets, qualitative changes in men and machines, induction of appropriate technologies in support of human efforts etc.

(c):
(i) The plan also outlines our financial strategy. Out of the total expenditure of Rs.24,000 Crore, Rs.4,000 Crore is available under Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF), Rs. 3,730 Crore is proposed to be mobilized through internal generations and Rs. 6,000 Crore through market borrowing. The balance requirement of Rs.10,270 Crore is proposed to be met through Budgetary Support.

(ii) The Corporate Safety Plan envisages a safety action plan, indicating broad time frames, involving total investment of Rs.31,835 crores for safety related works in the ten year period, which covers continuous rehabilitation of modernization of assets, qualitative changes in men and machines, induction of appropriate technologies in support of human efforts etc.